growth profile, drought assessment, floods mapping, etc.

(c) Yes, Sir. The IRS-1C data/information is supplied by the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad to various remote sensing data users in the Central and State departments as well as to State remote sensing centres, academic institutions, public and private sectors. Besides, under an agreement between ANTRIX Corporation of Department of Space and EOSAT Company of USA, Ground Stations in USA and Germany have been equipped to receive and disseminate IRS-1C data for users in Northern America and Europe respectively.

(d) The data/information are being used by various users for several remote sensing aplication projects in the country, under the National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS) of Department of Space in coordination with Central and State user departments. The highlights of the major application projects are the followng :

Mapping the type and extent of wastelands at micro-level,

Mapping of landuse/cover,

Soil mapping,

Preparation of hydrogeomorphological maps for identifying ground water prospect zones,

Monitoring of agricultural drought at district level,

Mapping of type and extent of forest cover,

Pre-harvest crop acreage and production estimation for major crops,

Near real time mapping of flood inundation and damage assessment for major floods,

Geological mapping for mineral prognostics

Preparation of coastal zone maps

Monitoring of command areas for improved irrigation management,

Urban Planning,

Environmental Impact assessment,

Integrated Mission for Sustainable Development to arrive at local specific developmental plans for land and water resources.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

LPG Connections

*212. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed by the Government for releasing the LPG connections by the year 1996-97;

(b) whether the procedure started recently to release new LPG connections to the wait listed persons all over the country has been suspended for indefinite period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(d) the present policy regarding release of LPG connections ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The target for releasing LPG connections during 1996-97 has not been finalised so far. However, the Government has approved adhoc enrolment of 6 lakh new LPG customers during the first quarter of 1996-97 and proposes to enrol a total of 20 lakh new LPG customers during 1996-97.

(b) and (c) Due to increased demand and expected lower product inventories in the coming peak season during 1996-97, it has been decided to put on hold any new LPG enrolment w.e.f. 1.7.1996 temprarily till such time new LPG import facilities at Kandla and Mangalore are commissioned and stabilised. However, new LPG enrolment would continue for the priority categories like Taj Trapezium area, Hilly markets, releases under Tatkal scheme and against MP/Government priorities, priorities of PSUs under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and the distributors to be newly commissioned. After commissioning of new import facilities at Mangalore and Kandla in October, 1996, there will be enhanced enrolment of customers through increased imports of LPG.

(d) New LPG connections are released, in a phased manner, throughout the country, depending upon the availability of LPG, total new ustomer enrolment, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability.

[English]

Retirement Gratuity

*213. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Governmen have raised the ceiling on the maximum amount of retirement gratutity/death gratuity from Rs. 1 Lakh to Rs. 2.50 lakh under the Central Civil Services (Pension), 1992;

(b) if so, the date from which it has been given effect to and the basis thereof ;

(c) whether Government propose to extend the same benefitis to public sector undertakings/corporations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the basis of the recommendations made by the Fifth Central Pay Commision in its Interim Report, orders were issued for raising the ceilling on the maximum amount of retirement gratuity/death gratuity for the Central Government Employees from Rs.1 lakh to Rs. 2.50 lakhs which are effective from 1st April, 1995.

(c) to (e). The payment of gratuity and other retirement benefits to the Central Government employees are governed by the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972. The issues relating to payment of gratuity to the employees of Public Sector Undertakings will be considered by the Ministry of Industry, keeping in view the relevant rules applicable to them.

Export Oriented Food Processing Industries Units

*214. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be please to state:

(a) the number of applications received for setting up of hundred percent export oriented consumer food processing industries in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the number of such applications cleared, year-wise ;

(c) the number of applications still awaiting approval; and

(d) the time by which these applications are likely to be approved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) and (b). Two applications have been received for setting up of 100% export oriented Consumer Industries Units in food processing sector in Gujarat. Year-wise break-up is as follows :

	Applications		
Year	Recd.	Cleared	Rejected
1993 - 94	Nil	Nil	Nil
1994 - 95	Nil	Nil	Nil
1995 - 96	02	02	Nil

(c) and (d). In view of the above, does not arise.

Atomic Energy Regulatory Board

*215. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM :
SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of recommendations of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board made in its report in regard to the safety of the nuclear installation;

(b) whether the same have been accepted and implemented by the Atomic Energy Commision; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) made recommendations relating to safety upgradations reqired in the nuclear establishments in the country with particular reference to the following :

- improvements or modifications to emergency core cooling system;
- more evaluation and inspection of the integrity of zircaloy pressure tubes in Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors;
- improvements to further reduce the collective radiation dosage of workers;
- improvements to lower potential for leakage from radioactive waste management system;
- evaluation of structural response to earthquakes for some facilities; and
- improvements to fire prevention and flod protection systems etc.

(b) and (c). The recommendations of the AERB and the responses of the concerned nuclear installations have been considered by the Atomic Energy Commission. The Atomic Energy Commission has directed the AERB and the nuclear installations to formulate detailed action plans by Mutual consultations. The plans already so formulated have been taken up for implenenatation, significant among these are: TAPS-II Core Shroud Inspection (completed and found to be in accordance with safety requirements)• Enmasse Coolant Channel replacement and Upgradation of Emergency Core Cooling System in RAPS-II

Natural Gas

*216. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of natural gas at present being produced in Assam;

(b) the quantum of gas being flared up daily in the various oil fields in the State;

(c) whether the Government propose to utilise the flared up gas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b). Currently, 5.31 MMSCMD of natural gas is being produced in Assam of which 0.69 MMSCMD is being flared.